

Seattle Permits

— part of a multi-departmental City of Seattle series on getting a permit

Street and Stadium Vending

Vending has added a human touch and charm to our City. The City is supportive of vending because it adds color to the street and has a public benefit. In this information bulletin, you are told how the City regulates street and stadium vending and how to obtain a permit.

There are two distinct types of vending distinguished by location. Most street vending is done on public sidewalks from carts. The only products you are allowed to vend from most locations in the city streets are food, non-alcoholic beverages, and flowers. There are specific districts, such as the Pike Place Market, which allow other types of vending; also, stadium vending allows the sale of food and products on event days near the sports venues as described later in this document.

Street Vending

In order to obtain a permit for street vending, you will need to find a location that is suitable based on criteria in the next section. The spot must be approved by the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) and will become the assigned location for your cart. The cart must not be more than three feet wide by five feet long and five feet tall. Two 18 inch drop leaves can be added to increase the cart length to eight feet. It must be able to be pushed by one person and have at least two wheels with positive locking devices. You may also attach a vinyl or canvas umbrella to your unit with prior approval.

Location

- Vending can be done from only one location.
- A flower cart must be at least 200 feet from any established flower shop, unless you have the shop owner's written permission.
- A cart must be at least 200 feet from a park or

school unless you have received special permission from the Parks Department or School District.

- You need a Certificate of Approval from the Commission or Board regulating historical or special review districts to vend in these areas.

Prohibitions and Other Requirements

- Mobile vending is not allowed in certain areas. (see SMC 15.17.010 later in this document)
- Carts cannot interfere with pedestrian flow. Seattle Department of Transportation decides the appropriateness of each requested location.

Permits for Street Vending

You need an Annual Street Use Permit to have a cart on the sidewalk. The permit costs \$165.00. To apply for a permit, you will need the following:

- Written permission from the business (or building owner) next to where your cart will be parked.
- A drawing showing where your cart will be parked.
- A copy of your Seattle Business License.
- If you want to sell food or beverages, written Health Department approval.
- If you use propane, you need an "LPG -Place of Assembly" permit from the Fire Marshal.
- A Certificate of Insurance, with a minimum liability of \$1,000,000.00 naming the City as additional insured. (See SDOT Client Assistance Memo #2102)

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Stadium Event Vending

(SMC 15.17.080)

An authorizing official may issue a permit to authorize the use of a public place for vending within the area bounded by the center line of South Jackson Street, the center line of Fifth Avenue South, the center line of Airport Way South, the center line of Sixth Avenue South, the center line of South Holgate Street, and the center line of Alaskan Way South, except that during events at Safeco Field, vending shall not be permitted on Occidental Avenue South between Railroad Avenue South and South Jackson Street. Permits allow the sale of goods, wares, merchandise, services, food, and nonalcoholic beverages from a temporary display table, tent or cart that is stationed at a site approved by the authorizing official for stadium and exhibition center events, under the following terms and conditions:

- A. Vending of food and beverages must meet all standards established by the Seattle-King County Health Department, and if propane or a combustible fuel is used, the requirements of the Fire Department;
- B. Food and beverages sold must be capable of immediate consumption;
- C. The display tables, carts, tents and all other equipment must be removed from the public place after business hours;
- D. The vendor must provide public liability insurance naming the City as an additional insured in an amount determined by the authorizing official. (see SDOT Client Assistance Memo 2102);
- E. The vending site must be kept clean at all times. The vendor must supply a refuse container;
- F. No use of voice amplification devices is allowed;
- G. Electrical utility connections are permitted to the adjacent property, but no lines may be extended overhead or upon the sidewalk;
- H. The vendor must present to the City written approval for the vending by the adjoining property owner and/or tenant; if the tenant and property owner disagree, the property owner's decision controls;
- I. The vendor displays the permit at the vending site in a manner approved by the authorizing official; and
- J. The vendor satisfies all the conditions of its permit and such other criteria and requirements as the authorizing official may establish from time to time by rule in the public interest.

SMC 15.17.050 No Vending Zone

It is unlawful to sell, offer to sell, solicit orders, rent lease, or otherwise peddle any goods or services in a public place within the area bounded by the centerline of South Royal Brougham Way, the centerline of First Avenue South, the centerline of South Atlantic Street and the centerline of Third Avenue South for the day (a twenty-four hour period from midnight to midnight) of any event scheduled at Safeco Field.

Permits for Stadium Vending

You need a Street Use Permit to vend on an event day near the stadiums. The permit costs \$121.50/month April to September or \$18.00/month October to March. To apply for a permit, you will need the following:

- Written permission from the business (or building owner) next to where you intend to vend.
- A drawing showing where your table, cart, tent or other equipment will be placed.
- A copy of your Seattle Business License.
- If you want to sell food or beverages, written Health Department approval.
- If you will use propane, you need an "LPG-Place of Assembly" permit from the Fire Marshall.
- A Certificate of Insurance, with a minimum liability of \$1,000,000.00. (see SDOT Client Assistance Memo #2102)

Additional Information for All Vending Locations

SMC 15.17.010 Areas Where Mobile Vending is Restricted

Except for the vending on foot of newspapers, magazines, event programs and other such publications, it is unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, solicit orders, rent, lease, or otherwise peddle from a public place while walking, moving from place to place, using a mobile cart, using a vehicle, or by any other mobile methods, within the following boundaries:

- A. Beginning at the waterfront on Elliot Bay in a direct line with West Prospect Street, then east to West Olympic Place; then east along West Olympic Place to First Avenue West; then north along First Avenue West to West Aloha Street; then east along West Aloha and Aloha Streets to Westlake Avenue North; then south along Westlake Avenue North and Westlake Avenue to Eighth Avenue; then south along Eighth Avenue to South Jackson Street; then west along South Jackson Street to Fifth Avenue South; then south along Fifth Avenue South to Airport Way South; then southeast along Airport Way South to Sixth Avenue South; then south along Sixth Avenue South to South Holgate Street; then west along South Holgate street to Elliott Bay on the waterfront; then north along the waterfront to a point in direct line with West Prospect Street, the place of beginning.
- B. Within two hundred (200) feet of any public park, as defined in the Park Code, Ordinance 106615 as amended (Seattle Municipal Code 18.12), or within two hundred (200) feet of any public school.
- C. Beginning at the junction of 15th Avenue NE and NE 40th Street; then west on NE 40th Street to Brooklyn Avenue; then north on Brooklyn Avenue to NE 50th; then east on NE 50th Street to 15th Avenue NE; then south on 15th Avenue NE to NE 40th Street, the place of beginning, including both sides of the streets and avenues mentioned.

SMC 15.17.020 Mobile Vending in Restricted Areas

Selling is permitted in public places in the areas described in Section 15.17.010 by persons on foot along the route of any parade for which a permit has been issued by the Police Department while the parade is in progress and for one (1) hour prior to its commencement.

Selling by persons on is also permitted in public places in such areas when authorized by a permit for a crowd control event issued pursuant to Chapter 15.52 and the selling is in accordance with the terms of the permit.

A "mobile food service unit" licensed by the Public Health Department may sell food and beverages from a vehicle in public places in such areas to personnel at business and industrial establishments and at construction sites on a pre-arranged route or a prearranged schedule. The driver and vehicle are subject to the Traffic Code, Title 11.

Nothing in this section authorizes selling as prohibited by Section 15.17.050.

NOTES: This bulletin is a summary of the Boards of Public Work Rules for Street Vending, Chapter 4.10 and Seattle Municipal Section 15. In all cases, the rules and code govern legal limits to Street Vending. This bulletin was written for general information only. Copies of the Rules and Code can be obtained at the Seattle Department of Transportation, Street Use Division at 700 5th Avenue, 37th floor, Seattle, WA 98104.

For more information, contact Seattle Department of Transportation, Street Use, Annual Permits Division at (206) 684-5267.